Sent Via Email

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Corporate Services Department – Legislative Services Division

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Alexander Harras M.P.A.
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk

April 29, 2026

Jonathan Scott
Executive Director
Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition
120 Primeau Drive
Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6Z4

Dear J. Scott:

RE: Implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan Our File: C00

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on April 29, 2026, adopted the following recommendations of the Community Growth & Economic Development Committee:

That the resolution received from the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee regarding the implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, be received for information; and

Whereas the Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog watersheds are of significant ecological, economic and recreational importance to the Region of Durham and its residents;

And Whereas Lake Scugog is a shallow, nutrient-sensitive lake that is vulnerable to phosphorus loading, algal blooms and climate-driven water quality impacts;

And Whereas the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition's report Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress (November 2025) outlines practical, implementation-focused recommendations to strengthen the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan;

And Whereas there is currently no provincially legislated protection plan for Lake Scugog comparable to the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, despite similar water quality pressures;

And Whereas both the current federal government and the Official Opposition committed during recent federal election campaigns to restore and expand dedicated funding for Lake Simcoe at a minimum of $40 million;

And Whereas the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation-Durham Region Bilateral Agreement includes a commitment to collaborate for ecological protection and restoration of lands and waters with ecological and cultural connections, of which Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog would be examples;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. Regional Council receive and endorse the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition's Protect Our Plan Report;
2. Regional Council endorse:
    - the establishment of a dedicated funding stream within Canada's Freshwater Action Plan, consistent with commitments made by federal parties during recent election campaigns, to provide sustained, transparent investment in phosphorus reduction, stormwater retrofits and science in both the Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog watersheds; and
    - the creation of a provincial Riparian Tax Incentive to encourage the protection and restoration of naturalized buffers along streams and shorelines in the Lake Simcoe, as well as Lake Scugog watersheds;
3. That the Regional Chair write to:

    - the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change,
    - the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,
    - Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog watershed Members of Parliament, and
    - Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog watershed Members of Provincial Parliament

    requesting their support and action on the above measures; and
4. That a copy of this resolution be circulated to Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog watershed municipalities.

Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras, M.P.A.
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk
AH/sc

c: W. Cooke, City Clerk, City of Barrie
C. Ritchie, City Clerk, City of Kawartha Lakes
G. Jackson, City Clerk, City of Orillia
C. Raynor, Regional Clerk, York Region
J. Magill, County Clerk, County of Simcoe
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B. Labelle, Clerk, Township of Scugog
D. Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge
J. Gallagher, Clerk, Municipality of Clarington
The Chippewas of Georgina Island
A. Bathe, Staff Liaison, Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC)
S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development
A. Burgess, Director, Communications and Engagement